

Oak Middle School Happenings

SHREWSBURY



“Respect is Our Cornerstone”

March 2005

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Principals’ Corner

As you read this issue of the “Happenings” we are already one week into the final trimester of the school year. This “home stretch” will be a busy one as we focus on the quality learning time that remains, MCAS testing, and orienting students to the school year ahead. Please take particular note of the MCAS Testing Schedule and Parent Orientations that are referenced on our calendar. We respectfully request that your child be particularly well rested and at their best on the dates they are scheduled to participate in their grade level MCAS tests.

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PTO President’s Corner

During our PTO general meeting in April, our membership will elect the PTO Executive Board for next year. This year many new volunteers emerged to assist with all of the fundraising activities and programs, but now it is time to elect the individuals who will set the direction and plan the activities for next year’s PTO.

The Executive Board positions that will be elected are: President, Fundraising Coordinator, Volunteer Coordinator, Communications Coordinator, Treasurer Elect, and Secretary. The

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Date	Grade 7		Date	Grade 8
			March 29 th	Gr 8 Reading Tryouts
April 6 th	Gr 7 ELA Composition			
May 12 th	Gr 7 ELA Composition Make up			
May 16 th	Gr 7 Math Question Tryouts		May 16 th	Gr 8 Science/ Technology Ed
May 17 th	Gr 7 History Question Tryouts		May 17 th	Gr 8 Science/ Technology Ed
May 23 rd	Gr 7 Language Arts/Literature Practice		May 23 rd	Gr 8 Math Practice
May 24 th	Grade 7 Language Arts/Literature		May 24 th	Gr 8 Math
May 25 th	Gr 7 Language Arts/Literature		May 25 th	Gr 8 Math
May 26 th	MCAS Make up Day		May 26 th	MCAS Make up Day
May 27 th	MCAS Make up Day		May 27 th	MCAS Make up Day

Ms. Peg Holdash, a 7 White teacher of Language Arts, girls varsity track coach, marathoner and adventurer at heart has “sort of” invited her students and the rest of us on “A Trek to Nepal” which began last week. Students and teachers on 7 White have undertaken a variety of integrated learning experiences related to this educational enterprise during the course of this year. Students from her team have helped to develop a website – “A Trek to Nepal: Seven White is Climbing Higher” that can be accessed from the school’s website: <http://www.shrewsbury-ma.gov/schools/Oak/index.asp>, if you, like many of us, would like to follow this adventure from start to finish.

The next school sponsored dance will be Friday, April 29th from 7:00-9:30 p.m. We very much appreciate the effort you have made in response to our “pick up by no later than 9:45 p.m.” guideline. The dance will be a fundraiser for the

7 White team’s educational sponsorship of a student from Nepal. The dance will be chaperoned by parents of 7 White and all school rules will apply. We are in hopes that no students will lose the May dance privileges due to late parent arrival.

The 2005-06 Budget process formally began with the School Committee’s review of budget content on Wednesday, March 16th. The town’s budget shortfall will require significant reductions for both the school district and town. Additional reductions beyond those included in the first budget presented have now been added to bring forward a “balanced” budget to Town Meetings. Specific items slated for reduction may change through the deliberations of the School Committee in the week’s ahead. However, the scope of reductions and the negative educational impact of same will remain significant in any scenario. Please use your School Council members whose names are referenced in the “School Council” portion of the “Happenings” as a source of current information. As information is updated, I will provide them with the particulars. We encourage you to be informed and involved, as you deem appropriate, as decisions are made which will affect the quality of your child’s school experience in the years ahead.

The school year is now scheduled to end on Monday June 27th. It is our sincere hope that now that spring has officially sprung, we will not need to go any deeper into the month of June to complete the current school year. We look forward to coming down the “home stretch” ahead with you in making this your child’s best learning year ever.

Steve Lobban

Pam Farrill

Beth Schaper

(PTO President’s Corner, continued from page 1)

Chairperson position for each Committee is then appointed. If you would like to know more about the positions and responsibilities of each, I encourage you to contact Bridgid Rubin or me to

learn what time commitments are involved. You will be very surprised to find out that assuming a Board position requires less time than you think.

The Directory Committee from this year, and the recently appointed Directory Committee for next year, have been working with the School District Technology Staff to put the Directory sign-up form online, available 24/7. We hope to have this online Directory sign-up ready and tested by the end of this school year. This way families electing to be part of the school directory have the choice of signing-up via the web or by sending in a sign-up form.

The PTO would like to thank all of the individuals who have given their time to chaperone and set-up at the Oak Middle School dances and Sherwood Socials. Without you these wonderful social events for our Middle School students would not be possible. We also appreciate the donations that are made for the concession stands. These items not only provide refreshments for the kids, but add to the money we give back to the schools.

Finally, there are still a number of PTO events scheduled for the year. If you are interested in getting involved with the 7th & 8th grade dance, Sing Out, Teacher Appreciation Luncheon, or any other event, please contact a member of the PTO Board. And, the PTO list serv (email broadcast) is now up-and-running. Just log onto either the Oak or Sherwood website, follow the links for the PTO page, and sign up for the list serv. This is a great way to stay informed about upcoming events.

Michael Brand
PTO President

PTO News

Oak Middle School PTO Media Center Book Donations

Thanks to the OMS Administrative Support staff, as well as Joan Connors and Janet Pope, Media Center Specialists for keeping me apprised so that some very special events can be

properly acknowledged by the PTO. The following staff achieved professional status earlier this school year: Derek Pizzuto, Gr. 8 Language Arts, Laura Estaphan – Gr. 8 English, Peggy Holdash – Gr. 7 Language Arts, Kevin DeNolf – Gr. 7 Science, Gail Flanagan – Instructional Technology.

The following is a list of other special events for which the OMS PTO donated a book to the OMS Media Center:

- Where in the World in memory of Phil Koziara's mother
- Big Nothing in memory of Beth Schaper's father
- Running Loose in memory of student Manh Pham's mother
- Chinese Handcuffs in memory of Cathy Duscheneau's mother
- Ironman: A Novel in memory of Barbara DePalo's mother
- Athletic Shorts: Six Short Stories in honor of baby born to Laura Estaphan
- Staying Fat for Sarah Byrnes in memory of Virginia Mitchell's mother-in-law
- Whale Talk in memory of Kerry Holly's father
- Misfits in honor of the marriage of Kate Bedard
- Stotan! in memory of Sally Lividini's father-in-law
- Chris Crutcher in memory of Kathy Bradley's father

Nancy Dumart
Acknowledgements, OMS PTO

School Council News

The School Council last met on Wednesday, March 2nd, at the Oak Middle School. The Council completed review of the "Curriculum Assessment and Instruction" portion of the current School Improvement Plan and generated initial 2005-06 improvement recommendations in this area. Recommendations for improvement included making a concerted effort to balance Foreign Language class sizes, continued application of common assessments in all subject areas and expanding opportunities for interest based learning.

The Council will meet again this Wednesday, March 30th at 6:30 p.m. in the Oak Media Center. The focus for this meeting will be a detailed review and discussion of Oak Middle School

2005-2006 proposed budget reductions and the first draft of the 2005-2006 School Improvement Plan. Your Council representatives are as follows:

Oak Middle School Council Members 2004-2005

Name	Title	Address	Phone	E-Mail
Steve Lobban	Administrator	Oak Middle School	508-841-1210	slobban@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us
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* *new council member*